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the very character most needed in dealing with the countless important questions which are constantly arising from the complicated system of corporations that rules the business world of to-day.

W. H. H.

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JOHN MARSHALL. LIFE, CHARACTER AND JUDICIAL SERVICES. Edited by John F. Dillon. Chicago: Callaghan & Company. 1903. 3 vols. pp. lviii, 528; iv, 565; v, 522. 8vo.

On February 4, 1901, was celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the day on which John Marshall first took his seat as Chief Justice of the United States. This celebration was, as Judge Dillon says in the introduction to the present work, "the most remarkable, voluntary, spontaneous tribute in its extent and character, which, in the history of our profession, in any country or in any age, was ever paid to the name and memory of a judge long since deceased." Under the auspices of the national and state governments, of the courts and the bar associations, exercises were held in the national Capitol and in thirty-seven states and territories. At these exercises more than fifty principal orations and addresses were delivered by eminent lawyers, judges, and scholars. It is these orations and addresses which are now collected and published in three handsome volumes. The collection is practically complete and the principal addresses are given in full or with unimportant omissions. To these are added five notable eulogies, delivered on past occasions by Horace Binney, Joseph Story, Edward J. Phelps, Chief Justice Waite, and William Henry Rawle. The editor contributes an admirable introduction.

On account of the limitations which necessarily result from the original nature of the contents of the work, the collection cannot take the place of a complete biography of Marshall, nor even, perhaps, of a full and elaborate discussion of the importance, quality, and value of his work. But these volumes are admirably fitted, both to whet the appetite for books whose character permits fuller and more formal study, and to supplement what can there be found. The addresses here included touch more or less upon Marshall's personal appearance and personal traits, his private as well as his public character, the story of his life, his rank merely as a judge, and the nature and effect of his more important judicial decisions. But happily the speakers almost without exception recognized that their most appropriate and significant theme was to be found in an estimate of his place and his work as one of the founders of the nation. It is this above everything else which constitutes Marshall's title to the admiration and gratitude of posterity, and it is in this field also that the solemn and deliberate judgments of half a hundred scholarly and practical men of the present day are of most value. In few of these addresses do we note the tendency so prevalent on such occasions to indiscriminate praise. The prevailing tone is warm and enthusiastic, but it is also in a sense judicial. Though each speaker must have consulted largely the same materials as the others, each has approached them from his own point of view, and in most cases stamped his conclusions with the marks of his own mental attitude and independent thought. No one historian or biographer can possibly present a complete and just estimate of any great man because no one historian or biographer can be fitted by personal sympathies and aptitudes to appreciate all the elements, good or bad, that make up a great man. It is this fact which gives to the present work its chief interest and value for the student.

To those of his own profession, as lawyers and as citizens, the elements in Marshall's character and work, which are discussed with clear appreciation and vigorous eloquence throughout these volumes, should prove a double inspiration. It is well to be reminded, in these days when the principles which Marshall established are accepted so completely as to seem almost self-evident, that there was a day when those principles were the subject of grave doubt and bitter conflict. It is well also for the legal profession to remember that Marshall's construction of the powers and duties of his court not only gave that court a position and dignity which his predecessors had not hoped nor claimed

for it — and which raised it above any other court in the world — but also, and as a necessary result, gave to his profession and ours a new importance, dignity, and responsibility. At the same time he taught us how to realize its importance with modesty, to maintain its dignity without affectation, and to discharge its responsibility with courage and power. If Judge Dillon's collection enforces these lessons, by the new interest and enthusiasm it may well inspire, it will indeed prove its value.

H. W. D.

**THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF CONTRACT.** By Louis L. Hammon. St. Paul: Keefe-Davidson Company. 1902. pp. xxx, 1233. 8vo.

The law of contract constitutes a basis of so large a part of the common law system and has such a vital influence upon all business relations that a new discussion of the subject is almost always helpful and welcome. The present work covers the whole field quite exhaustively, with especial reference to its modern developments. In addition to the more fundamental principles, it includes several matters not generally discussed so fully in the usual work of this kind. The chapter dealing with illegal contracts is especially noteworthy in this regard. The discussions also of the capacity of parties, and the effect of mistake, misrepresentation, fraud and undue influence, deserve particular mention. It is the full treatment of topics such as these that gives completeness and value to this work.

As in case of several other publications of this house that we have had occasion to notice, considerable care has been taken to render the contents of the book readily accessible. This is accomplished by means of analytical tables of contents for each chapter, black-letter titles for each section, and black-letter summaries for the main topics. This method not only greatly reduces the mechanical labor of legal investigation, but also adds considerably to the clearness of the discussion through the careful analysis of the subject that is necessary for the proper execution of such a plan. The writer has done this part of his work thoroughly and well.

Though the scope of the volume is very comprehensive, many of the topics are stated merely in outline or with only a brief discussion of the main rule. This, however, is wise, for a general text-book of this nature should not be encyclopædic, but should leave more detailed consideration to special investigators. It should bring together all the general principles of the subject into one connected discussion, which may be a convenient reference manual for the practitioner and the student, and serve as a point of departure for more detailed research. This end Mr. Hammon has accomplished with considerable success. The work is distinctively commendable and should prove acceptable to the profession.

W. H. H.

**HUGHES ON CONTRACTS.** By William T. Hughes. Chicago: Callaghan and Co. 1903. pp. 608. 8vo.

The plan of this book is novel. The author has divided it into three parts containing respectively twenty, one hundred and thirty-two, and four hundred and thirty-nine pages. In the first part he discusses the fundamental conceptions of law, and in the second the leading phases of the subject of contracts. The last part, styled a text-index, constitutes the most important and most valuable part of the work. It consists of a digest or encyclopædia of leading cases arranged alphabetically both under the name of the case and under an appropriate topic. The citation of each case is given not only to the regular reports but also to text-books, case-books, and other works in which discussions of it may be found. Under each case similar cases are also cited and briefly abstracted. The purpose of the author, as explained in his preface, is not to